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A NEW *PSEUDEMYS* FROM SONORA, MEXICO

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During the rainy season between June 15 and October 15, 1941, Mr. John W. Hilton made collections of reptiles and amphibians in extreme southern Sonora for The American Museum of Natural History. Among the specimens were four turtles of the genus *Pseudemys* which appear to represent a new form. I have been given the opportunity of examining and describing the living specimens, and at the suggestion of Mr. Charles M. Bogert, who turned the material over to me for study, I am associating the name of the collector, Mr. Hilton, with the subspecies.

Pseudemys scripta hiltoni, new subspecies

TYPE.—A.M.N.H. No. 63747. Mature male, collected at Guirocoba about 28 miles southeast of Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, at an elevation of approximately 1,485 feet. This locality lies in a small valley in the foothills of the Sierra Madre of Sonora, and the drainage is southward into the Rio Fuerte of the adjacent State of Sinaloa.

DIAGNOSIS.—Apparently most closely allied to *P. s. nebulosa* and *P. s. gaigeae;* distinguished from both these forms by the presence of an intensely black, smudge-like spot on the upper and lower surfaces of each of the lateral and posterior marginal shields and on some of the costals. The markings on the plastron and head, apparently unique in minor respects, are distinctly unlike those of *cataspila* and *ornata.*

DESCRIPTION.—Plastral pattern an oblong figure formed by the longitudinal confluence or near contiguity of broad, deep black blotches, one of which occupies the inner portion of each plastral scute. These blotches may be reduced or lacking on the gulars. Bridge with a broad, black, longitudinal band. Each lower marginal with a solid, black smudge in the latero-posterior corner; these smudges are less emphasized anteriorly but are lacking entirely only on the first marginal of either side. A similar spot of variable size occupies the inner portion of the lower surface of the nuchal. Ground color of carapace and soft parts brown to olive-brown. Markings of carapace generally reduced, the juvenile reticulated pattern, fundamentally similar in all the Mexican forms, being extensively obscured by opacity and pigmentation of the horny lamellae. Where discernible, the reticulations are formed of bright, reddish-orange lines bordered with black. A black, solid, smudge-like spot occupies the latero-posterior corner of the upper surface of each marginal; these spots, which are lacking in the marginal series only on the nuchal, are repeated on the mesio-posterior portion of some of the costals and occur faintly and intermittently along the vertebral line.[1] Markings of the head reduced, the pattern consisting chiefly of modifications of the supra-temporal and orbito-mandibular stripes. The former extends posteriorly from the surface of the eyelids at the posterior corner of the eye to expand markedly above and behind the tympanum. This expansion, which may or may not be continuous with the anterior portion of the stripe, is light orange in living and freshly preserved material, in contrast with the light, greenish-yellow color of the other markings of the head. The orbital and mandibular branches are not connected (except in one specimen on one side), the latter fading before making the junction. Stripes on dorsal surface of head scarcely discernible and very irregularly orientated. In two specimens a bar through the tympanum connects the supra-temporal and orbito-mandibular stripes. Anterior surface of fore limb with but two complete stripes, that extending to the base of the second toe being much broader than the other, which extends to the base of the fourth toe; another stripe traverses the free ends of the scales along the upper and lower edges of the limb. Upper surface of hind foot unmarked.

MEASUREMENTS

(IN MILLIMETERS)

A.M.N.H. No.	Sex	Length	Height	Width
63747	♂	214[2]	72	156
63748	♀	277	103	205
63749	♂	180	62	130
63750	♂	248	88	177

[1] The dark markings comprising the most conspicuous decoration of the plastron and carapace in the fully mature specimens at hand are an accentuation of what has elsewhere (Carr, 1938; Hartweg, 1939) been described as a tendency in members of the *scripta* complex toward secondary pigmentation of the horny plates. In *hiltoni*, however, the pigment involved is concentrated to an approximately equal extent in the lamellae and in the underlying bone.

[2] Posterior marginals damaged; measurement taken to projected margin.

PARATYPES.—A.M.N.H. Nos. 63748–50. Same data as type.

Although the available material is not sufficiently extensive to demonstrate geographically correlated intergradation between *hiltoni* and its nearest relatives, the

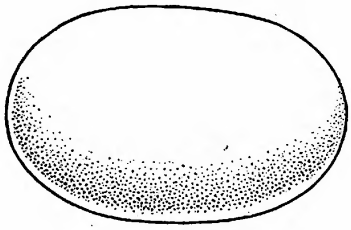

Fig. 1. Egg of *Pseudemys scripta hiltoni*, new subspecies. Drawn to scale from egg laid by paratype, A.M.N.H. No. 63748, on or about November 13, 1941.

fact that its distinguishing features are, for the most part, accentuations of trends demonstrable elsewhere in the complex would appear to indicate that intergrades may eventually be found in areas from which specimens are at present lacking. Thus, it seems justifiable to designate *hiltoni* as another of the races of *P. scripta*, which, as far as I have been able to determine, is the only pseudemyd stock to be found west or south of the eastern Sierra Madre.

LIFE HISTORY NOTE.—The day after the live specimens had been received in New York City, the large female paratype deposited an unknown number of eggs. All of these except one were unfortunately destroyed by the movements of the turtles in a small cage. The single unbroken egg, laid either on the night of November 12 or the morning of November 13, is herewith depicted (Fig. 1), and measured 17 mm. by 43 mm.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The photographs of the type and paratypes were made at The American Museum of Natural History by Mr. Charles H. Coles, and the drawing of the egg was prepared by Mr. Sidney Aberman. To them sincere thanks are acknowledged.

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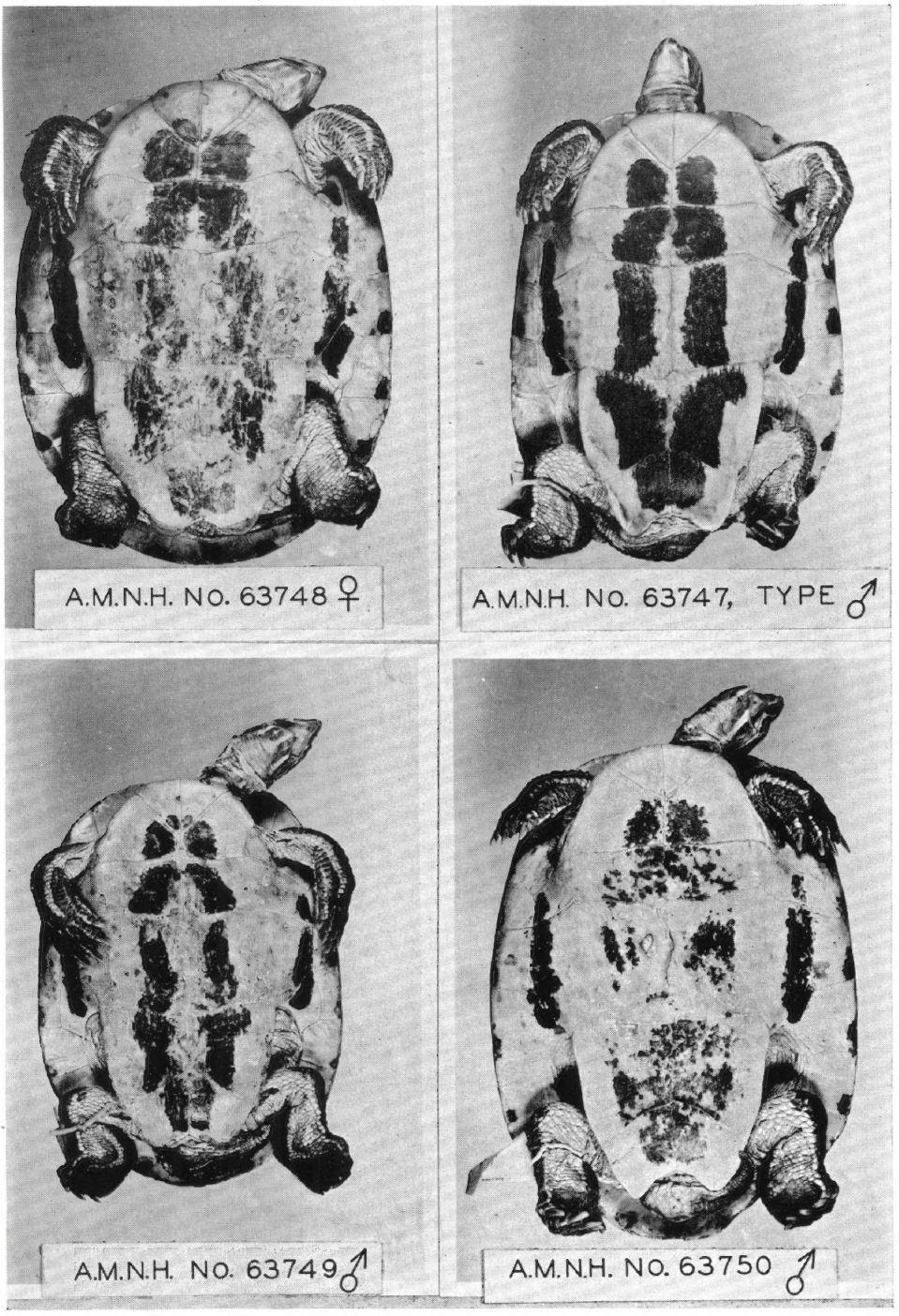

Fig. 2. *Pseudemys scripta hiltoni*, new subspecies. Dorsal and lateral views of type specimen and dorsal view of smallest paratype to show pattern of carapace. (Photographs of dead specimens, not to same scale; for actual dimensions see text.)

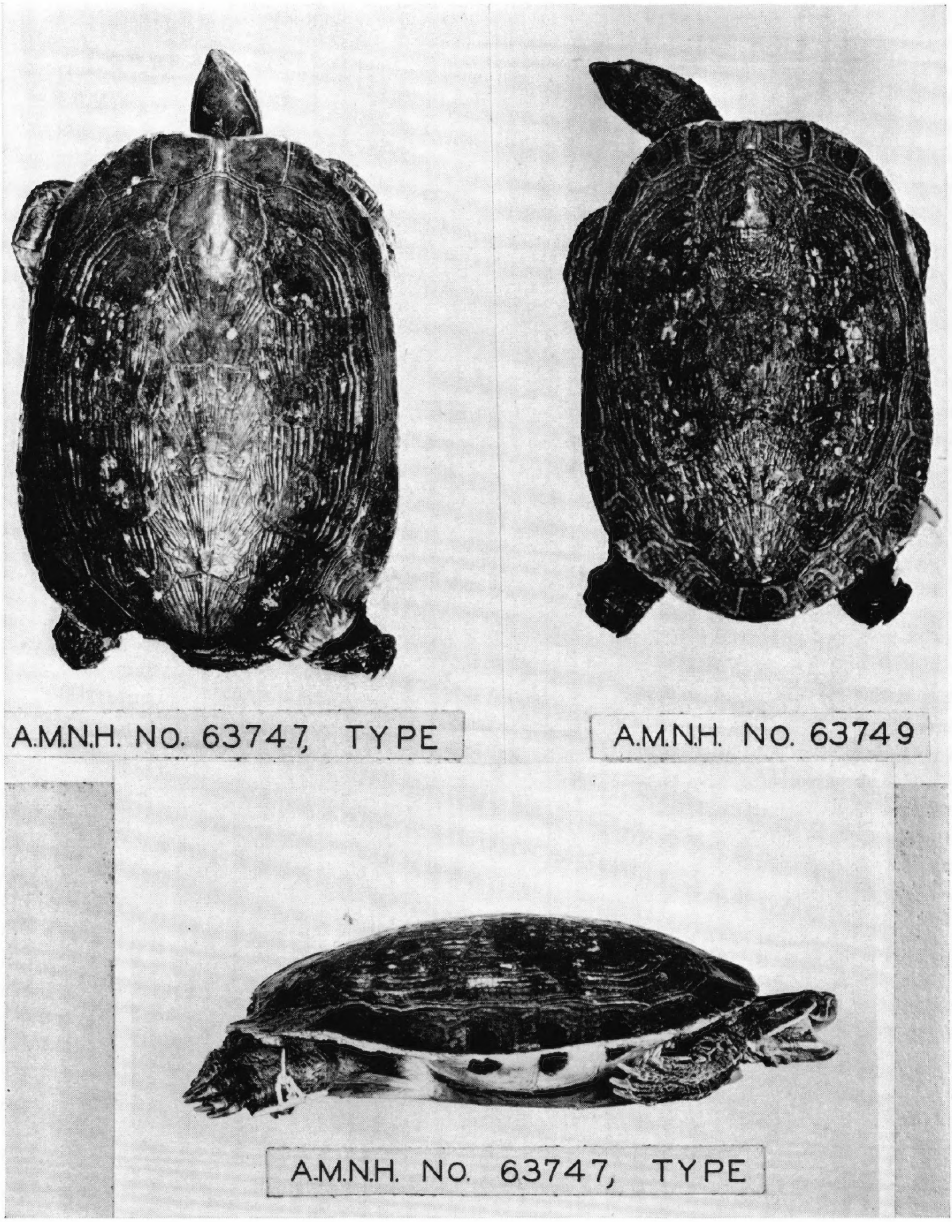

Fig. 3. *Pseudemys scripta hiltoni*, new subspecies. Plastral views of type and paratypes, to show variations in plastral pattern. (Photographs of dead specimens, not to same scale; for actual dimensions see text.)